## ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE: C14-2017-0085 (Charles Ford Rezoning)

Z.A.P. DATE: September 5, 2017

ADDRESS: 12101 1/2 Conrad Road

**DISTRICT AREA:** 6

**OWNER/APPLICANT:** Charles Ford

**ZONING FROM:** SF-2

**TO**: SF-3

**AREA:** 0.3992 acres (17,389 sq. ft.)

# SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The staff's recommendation is grant SF-3, Family Residence District, zoning.

# **ZONING AND PLATTING COMMISSION:**

9/05/17: Motion to approve staff's recommendation of SF-3 zoning made by S. Lavani-1<sup>st</sup>, B. Evans-2<sup>nd</sup>.

Substitute motion to approve SF-3 zoning, with a conditional overlay to prohibit Duplex Residential use and to provide on-site parking for accessory dwelling units made by A. Denkler, B. Evans-2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: (5-6, D. King, A. Aguirre, J. Duncan, J. Kiolbassa, B. Greenberg, Y. Flores-No). The motion failed.

Returned to the original motion to approve staff's recommendation of SF-3 zoning (4-7, D. King, A. Denkler, A. Aguirre, J. Duncan, J. Kiolbassa, B. Greenberg, Y. Flores-No). The motion failed.

Case sent forward to the City Council without a recommendation.

# **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

The property in question is currently undeveloped. The applicant is requesting SF-3 zoning because they would like to develop a single family residence with an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) or a two family residential use on the site. The staff recommends applicant's request for SF-3, Family Residence District, zoning because the property meets the intent of the SF-3 district designation as it fronts onto a local residential street and is located within an existing single-family neighborhood on a moderately sized lot. In addition, the property is surrounded by SF-2 zoning and is adjacent to SF-3 zoning. There is existing single-family residential development to the north, south, east and west of the site.

The applicant agrees with the staff's recommendation.

# **EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USES:**

	ZONING	LAND USES
Site	SF-2	Undeveloped
North	SF-2	Single-Family Residence
South	SF-2, SF-3, GR, CS	Undeveloped Lot, General Retail Sales (Cash America Pawn), Office Building
East	LI, LI-CO	Undeveloped Area, 3M Buildings
West	SF-2	Single-Family Residence

**AREA STUDY:** N/A

TIA: N/A

**WATERSHED:** Walnut Creek

**DESIRED DEVELOPMENT ZONE:** Yes

**CAPITOL VIEW CORRIDOR: N/A** 

**HILL COUNTRY ROADWAY: N/A** 

# **REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS:**

Angus Valley Area Neighborhood Association

Austin Heritage Tree Foundation

Austin Independent School District

Friends of Angus Valley

Friends of Austin Neighborhoods

Homeless Neighborhood Association

Long Canyon Homeowners Association

North Oaks Neighborhood Association

Northwest Austin Coalition

NW Austin Working Group

Raintree Estates

**SELTEXAS** 

Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group

TNR BCP-Travis County Natural Resources

# **SCHOOLS**:

North Oaks Elementary School Canyon Vista Middle School Anderson High School

# **CASE HISTORIES:**

NUMBER	REQUEST	COMMISSION	CITY COUNCIL
C14-2007-0228	SF-2 to SF-3	12/18/07: Approved staff	1/17/08: Approved SF-3 zoning by
11722 Bell		recommendation of SF-3 zoning by	consent (7-0); all 3 readings
Avenue)		consent (8-0); K. Jackson-1 <sup>st</sup> ,	_
		J. Shieh-2 <sup>nd</sup> .	
C14-00-2008	SF-2 to LO	2/29/00: Approved staff	3/30/00: Approved LO-CO zoning,
(Summit Oaks		recommendation of LO zoning, with	with conditions as recommended by
Office Park:		prohibition on Medical Office uses	Planning Commission on all 3
Howlett Ct.)		and a 2,000 vehicle trip per day limit	readings (6-0)
		(7-0)	

C14-98-0155	LO, GR to	11/10/98: Approved staff rec. of LO-	1/14/99: Approved PC rec. of LO-
(Tweed Court:	LO-CO	CO, with conditions for no vehicular	CO zoning, with conditions (7-0); 1 <sup>st</sup>
12000 Block of		access to Bell Avenue, access to	reading
Bell Avenue and		Tweed Court is permitted only if	
Tweed Court)		TxDoT prohibits access to U.S. 183	3/25/99: Approved LO-CO zoning
		and a 2,000 vehicle trip per day limit	with conditions (6-0); 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>
		(7-0)	readings
C14-89-0009	LO to LI	6/27/89: Approved LI-CO zoning	7/27/89: Approved LI zoning, with
(Wilson Tract:		with conditions: 1) 40 foot height	conditions, on 1st reading
11805-11841		limit, 2) prohibit Scrap and Salvage	
Block of North		Services, Convenience Storage,	1/18/90: Approved LI-CO zoning,
U.S. Highway		Automotive Rentals, Automotive	with conditions, on 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> readings
183)		Repair Services, Automotive Sales,	
		Automotive Washing, Resource	
		Extraction, Hotel-motel, Basic	
		Industry and Vehicle Storage uses,	
		3) prohibit the following uses on the	
		rear portion of the property for a	*
		depth of 150 feet: General	
		Warehousing and Distribution,	
		Equipment Sales, Equipment Repair	
		Services and Kennels, and 4) the	
		property is subject to TIA	
		conditions.	

**RELATED CASES:** N/A

# **ABUTTING STREETS:**

Name	ROW	Pavement	Classification	Sidewalks	Bike Route	Capital Metro (within <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> mile)
Conrad Road	60 ft.	20 ft.	Local	No	No	No

**<u>CITY COUNCIL DATE</u>**: September 28, 2017

ACTION: Postponed to October 12, 2017 at the applicant's request (9-0, P. Renteria, O. Houston and E. Troxclair-off the dais)

October 12, 2017

**ACTION:** 

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

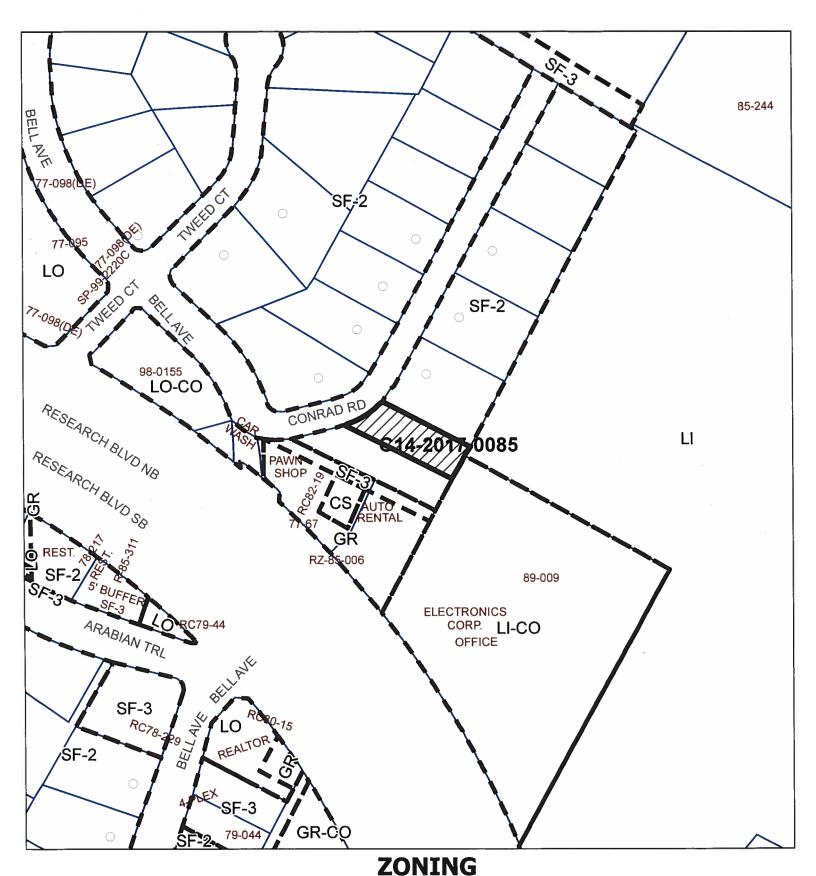
3<sup>rd</sup>

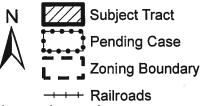
**ORDINANCE NUMBER:** 

**CASE MANAGER:** Sherri Sirwaitis

**PHONE:** 512- 974-3057,

sherri.sirwaitis@ci.austin.tx.us





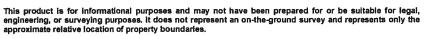
200

100

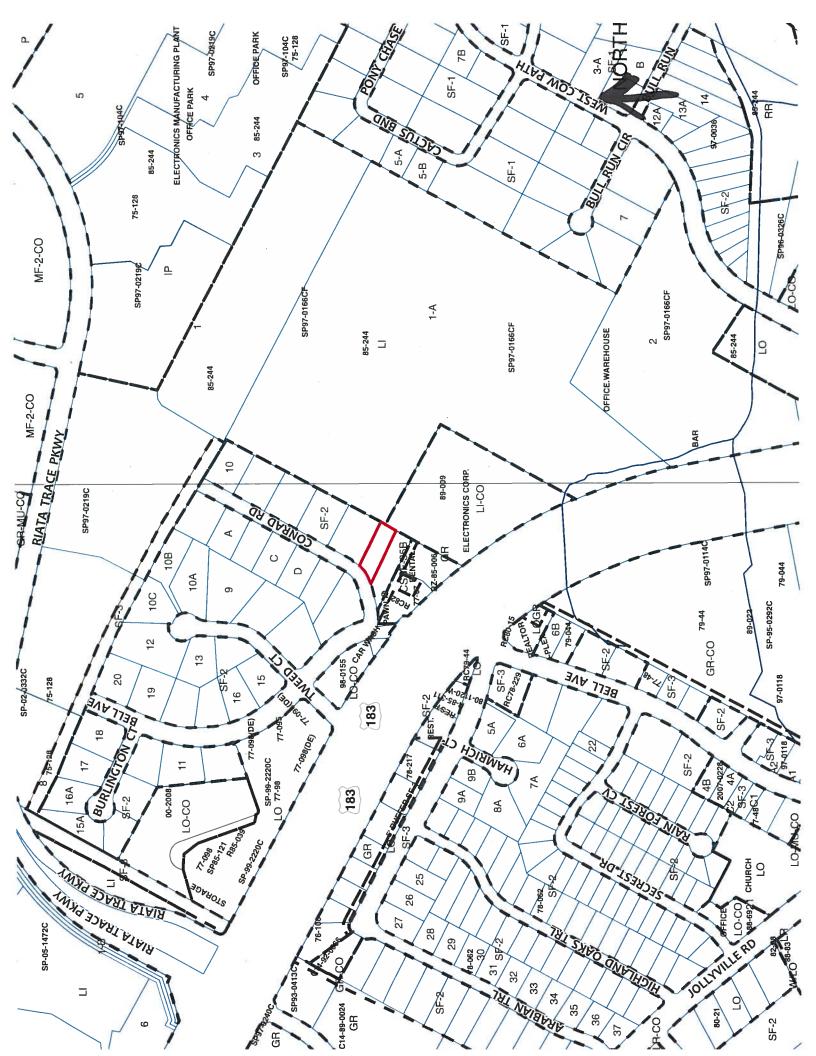
1 " = 200 '

Feet

Case#: C14-2017-0085









# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff's recommendation is grant SF-3, Family Residence District, zoning.

## BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

1. The proposed zoning should be consistent with the purpose statement of the district sought.

Family residence (SF-3) district is the designation for a moderate density single-family residential use and a duplex use on a lot that is a minimum of 5,750 square feet. An SF-3 district designation may be applied to a use in an existing single-family neighborhood with moderate sized lots or to new development of family housing on lots that are 5,750 square feet or more. A duplex use that is designated as an SF-3 district is subject to development standards that maintain single-family neighborhood characteristics.

2. The proposed zoning should promote consistency and orderly planning.

The proposed zoning is consistent and compatible with the surrounding SF-2 zoning, adjacent SF-3 zoning and with the single family residential development in this area.

3. The proposed zoning should allow for a reasonable use of the property.

The SF-3 zoning district will permit the applicant to construct an accessory dwelling unit on this site which will provide for an additional residential housing at this location.

# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **Site Characteristics**

The site under consideration is currently undeveloped. There are single-family homes to the north and west. There is undeveloped land directly to the south and east.

# **Comprehensive Planning**

SF-2 to SF-3

This zoning case is located on the east side of Conrad Road, on a 0.39 acre property, which is undeveloped. The property is not located within the boundaries of a neighborhood planning area. Surrounding land uses include single family housing to the north and west; and vacant land to the east and south. The proposed use a single family house with an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) as an accessory use.

# Connectivity

There are no public sidewalks on either side of Conrad Road but there is a public transit stop within walking distance from this property. The Walkscore for this property is 29/100, meaning most errands require a car.

## **Imagine Austin**

The comparative scale of this site relative to other nearby residential uses in this area, as well as the site not being located by an Activity Corridor or within an Activity Center falls below the scope of

Imagine Austin, which is broad in scope, and consequently the plan is neutral on this proposed rezoning.

# Environmental

The site is located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. The site is in the Walnut Creek Watershed of the Colorado River Basin, which is classified as a Suburban Watershed by Chapter 25-8 of the City's Land Development Code. The site is in the Desired Development Zone.

According to floodplain maps there is no floodplain within or adjacent to the project location.

Standard landscaping and tree protection will be required in accordance with LDC 25-2 and 25-8 for all development and/or redevelopment.

Numerous trees will likely be impacted with a proposed development associated with this rezoning case. Please be aware that an approved rezoning status does not eliminate a proposed development's requirements to meet the intent of the tree ordinances. If further explanation or specificity is needed, please contact the City Arborist at 512-974-1876. At this time, site specific information is unavailable regarding other vegetation, areas of steep slope, or other environmental features such as bluffs, springs, canyon rimrock, caves, sinkholes, and wetlands.

Under current watershed regulations, development or redevelopment requires water quality control with increased capture volume and control of the 2 year storm on site.

At this time, no information has been provided as to whether this property has any preexisting approvals that preempt current water quality or Code requirements.

## **Hill Country Roadway**

The site is not within a Hill Country Roadway Corridor.

# **Impervious Cover**

The maximum impervious cover allowed by the SF-3 zoning district would be 45%. However, because the Watershed impervious cover is more restrictive than the zoning district's allowable impervious cover, the impervious cover on this site would be limited by the watershed ordinance.

Under current watershed regulations, development or redevelopment on this site will be subject to the following impervious cover limits:

Development Classification	% of Gross Site Area	% of Gross Site Area with Transfers
Single-Family	50%	60%
(minimum lot size 5750 sq. ft.)		
Other Single-Family or Duplex	55%	60%
Multifamily	60%	70%
Commercial	80%	90%

# Site Plan

Site plans will be required for any new development other than single-family or duplex residential.

Any development which occurs in an SF-6 or less restrictive zoning district which is located 540 feet or less from property in an SF-5 or more restrictive zoning district will be subject to compatibility development regulations.

Any new development is subject to Subchapter E. Design Standards and Mixed Use. Additional comments will be made when the site plan is submitted.

# **Stormwater Detention**

At the time a final subdivision plat, subdivision construction plans, or site plan is submitted, the developer must demonstrate that the proposed development will not result in additional identifiable flooding of other property. Any increase in stormwater runoff will be mitigated through on-site stormwater detention ponds, or participation in the City of Austin Regional Stormwater Management Program, if available.

# **Transportation**

Staff recommends providing one driveway to the site to reduce the number of curb cuts to Concord Road.

Janae Ryan, Urban Trails, Public Works Department and Nathan Wilkes, Bicycle Program, Austin Transportation Department may provide additional comments regarding bicycle and pedestrian connectivity per the Council Resolution No. 20130620-056.

FYI – Sidewalks shall be required at the time of Subdivision and Residential Permit Application.

**Existing Street Characteristics:** 

Name	ROW	Pavement	Classification	Sidewalks	Bike Route	Capital Metro (within ¼ mile)
Conrad Road	60 ft.	20 ft.	Local	No	No	No

## Water and Wastewater

The landowner intends to serve the site with City of Austin water and wastewater utilities. The landowner, at own expense, will be responsible for providing any water and wastewater utility improvements, offsite main extensions, utility relocations and or abandonments required by the land use. The water and wastewater utility plan must be reviewed and approved by Austin Water for compliance with City criteria and suitability for operation and maintenance. Depending on the development plans submitted, water and or wastewater service extension requests may be required. All water and wastewater construction must be inspected by the City of Austin. The landowner must pay the City inspection fee with the utility construction. The landowner must pay the tap and impact fee once the landowner makes an application for a City of Austin water and wastewater utility tap permit.

# Item# C-7

# Sirwaitis, Sherri

Subject:

FW: c14-2017-0085. I need information - deadline is Tuesday Sept 5

From: WARREN Cullar []

Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 9:51 AM

**To:** Sirwaitis, Sherri

Subject: Re: c14-2017-0085. I need information - deadline is Tuesday Sept 5

# Hi Sherri

Thank you for your prompt response. I am now clear about the "duplex". I object to changing the zoning. We don't want the neighborhood to be composed of any duplexes.

He paid over \$3,000 for a request to change the zoning, that most of the neighbors don't want. I am sorry he has lost cost in the \$3,000+ zoning fee. He has a lot and can build a house on it with the existing zoning. I am ok with him building a house on his lot but to change the zoning so he can build two houses under one roof. No. Then the neighborhood is open to do the same thing because all the neighbors have large lots. No duplexes

# Please

# Do I need to file the actual form? Thank you

On Tue, Sep 5, 2017 at 9:40 AM, Sirwaitis, Sherri < Sherri.Sirwaitis@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Hi Mr. Cullar,

Here is the definition of the SF-3 (Family Residence) district in the Code:

# § 25-2-57 - FAMILY RESIDENCE (SF-3) DISTRICT DESIGNATION.

Family residence (SF-3) district is the designation for a moderate density single-family residential use and a duplex use on a lot that is a minimum of 5,750 square feet. An SF-3 district designation may be applied to a use in an existing single-family neighborhood with moderate sized lots or to new development of family housing on lots that are 5,750 square feet or more. A duplex use that is designated as an SF-3 district is subject to development standards that maintain single-family neighborhood characteristics.

# • § 25-2-3 - RESIDENTIAL USES DESCRIBED.

- (B) Residential use classifications are described as follows:
- (4) DUPLEX RESIDENTIAL use is the use of a site for two dwelling units within a single building, other than a mobile home.

I have also included the Permitted Use Chart and the Site Development Standards for the zoning districts for your review.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you,

# Sherri Sirwaitis

City of Austin
Planning & Zoning Department
sherri.sirwaitis@austintexas.gov
512-974-3057(office)

From: WARREN Cullar []

Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 8:37 AM

To: Sirwaitis, Sherri

Subject: c14-2017-0085. I need information - deadline is Tuesday Sept 5

# Good morning Sherri - please help

I do not understand the proposed zoning change. Charlie Ford wants to change from sf-2 to a sf-3. I know he can build on his lot and I support that building project of a single family home.

I don't understand the following: Duplex use is permitted under development standards which maintains single-family neighborhood characteristics. Please take the lawyer out of this and tell me exactly what this sentence means.

How is duplex defined? I need to know before I can make the correct response.

Thank you in advance and hope you enjoyed your holiday

Warren Cullar, Artist

Cullar Gallery 12102 Conrad Rd Austin, TX 78727 512-589-6717

"Today I am going to create something the world has never seen."

# Sirwaitis, Sherri

From:

Dale McConnell

Sent:

Tuesday, September 05, 2017 2:47 PM

To:

Sirwaitis, Sherri

Subject:

Objection to re-zoning Charlie Ford 12101 and 1/2 Conrad Summit Oaks Subdivision

### Hello

My name is Dale McConnell, also an owner of a residence and a vacant lot in Summit Oaks. I want to be a good neighbor and a good steward of the neighborhood. My intention is to build a very nice home on the vacant lot I own with a total investment of approximately \$600,000. With the other home that I own, I will have around a million dollars invested in our neighborhood. I am doing this expecting that the neighborhood of Summit Oaks will become revitalized as have many older neighborhoods in Austin. My worst fear is that the character and complexion of the neighborhood being transformed from its current estate type subdivision into area with multi-family rentals.

It is also my hope that Mr. Fords zoning change request will be disallowed. If the city were to approve this request, the effects would be felt by everyone in the neighborhood. An approval would also set a precedent for SF 3 rezoning and beyond in this old neighborhood. The best neighborhood attributes are the large lots and the serenity/privacy enjoyed by the low population density. By setting a precedent that would encourage future zoning changes in the neighborhood, the character and desirability of Summit Oaks would be in danger. With the likely probability of future rezoning request, the precedent established would encourage greedy developers an opportunity to erase the charm and character from our subdivision. Below I have provided the restrictive language from the survey plat of Mr. Fords lot.

The survey plat of the property has a covenant that reads as follows:

The Frontage of this lot along the street is an arc distance of 92.62 feet, paragraph x of the restrictive covenants as recorded in volume 1889, page 154 of the real estate property records of Travis County Texas sates:

"No residence shall be erected on any lot or portion of a lot unless the building area fronts at least 100 feet on the street which the residence faces, provided that this shall not apply if only one residence is placed on a full designated lot as shown on the subdivision plat, and the platted frontage is less than 100 feet."

Therefore, the lot is subject to restrictions in building and setback lines as per vol 1889, page 154 and blanket type easement to PEC per vol 2125, page 507 of real property records of Travis County, Texas. It is my understanding that violations of covenants and restrictions are 100% enforceable by those affected, irrespective of any zoning changes. I don't think the neighbors that I've heard from will be agreeable to changing the covenants, and are at the same time are willing to present a legal challenge to any activity that violates the covenants.

I want to avoid an expensive waste of time and money not only for the HOA members and neighbors, but for Mr Ford as well. Please consider not approving this request until the HOA and members of this subdivision agree to any development or zoning changes to Mr Fords property at 12101 & 1/2 Conrad Austin Texas

Sincerely,
Dale Mcconnell

12106 and 12107 Bell avenue

# Sirwaitis, Sherri

Subject:

FW: Case #C14-2017-0085

From: Michael O'Reilly []

Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 4:04 PM

To: Sirwaitis, Sherri

**Subject:** Case #C14-2017-0085

Sherri,

My apologies for the late feedback on this case, but I hope it can be heard for the Zoning and Platting Commission meeting this evening. I am writing in regard to Charlie Ford's request to rezone his currently vacant lot from SF-2 to SF-3.

I am the president of the Summit Oaks Neighborhood Association, and we had a neighborhood meeting last week during which we heard from Charlie about his plan and had feedback from others in attendance. Other than Charlie, no neighbor in attendance expressed support for this rezoning plan, and all expressed opposition to it. As president of SONA, I can say that the association as a whole is opposed to this zoning change, on the grounds that the entire neighborhood is composed of single-family, singly-unit residences by zoning and by history/custom. All of us moved into this neighborhood knowing and welcoming this situation, and have worked hard over the years to maintain our neighborhood spirit. We fear that rezoning one lot in the neighborhood opens the door to similar action in the future for other lots, and that over time the nature of the neighborhood would change, to all our detriment. Additionally, though Charlie says that his plans for the lot would not impact the neighborhood in that way, we recognize that if ownership changed from him to someone else the zoning change would remain and that new owner might not be bound by Charlie's sense of commitment to the neighborhood.

Charlie is a great guy, my next door neighbor, and I like him a lot and have nothing against him. He's been a great neighbor for 22 years now. It's my great hope that we all come through this situation without hard feelings or bad blood. However, I recognize that the unanimous feedback of our neighborhood is against this proposal, and I feel i must convey that to the Commission and through them to the City Council.

Thank you,

Michael O'Reilly 12111 Conrad Rd. Austin, TX 78727 (512) 258-2596 President Summit Oaks Neighborhood Association

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend a public hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, you have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request, or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, in order to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website: www.austintexas.gov/planning.

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n (or the Your scheduled person	uoi	] I am in favor § I object	8/2/2017 Date	eveloprize Zonize	Single lot	the 1	two errors; there lar	utal scations
Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice.  Case Number: C14-2017-0085	Contact: Sherri Sirwaitis, 512-974-3057 Public Hearing: Sept 5, 2017, Zoning and Platting Commission Sept. 28. City Council	☐ I am in	1 St./8	comments. I object to the rezoning request because I feel that the type of development allowed under the proposed SF-3 zoning will chance the character of the	Tamily homes. In addition rezoning one lot to SF-3 will set a precedent for 10ts throughout	Please note that the extilit included with the Notice for	two errors; Her	Auto Rental business at the locations marked
he board or or at a pub mmission's fumber and	7 nd Platting		3 1	re zoni He ts. po posed	Tamily homes. In addition rezoning  SF-3 will set a precedent for 10ts	t jactuo	eturned to.	- 57
omitted to the tice) before to and or control the Case N the Case	Contact: Sherri Sirwaitis, 512-974-3057 Public Hearing: Sept 5, 2017, Zoning an Sept. 28. City Council	5	Tour adaress(es) affected by this application  Lea U. Schwell  Signature  Daytime Telephone: 512 250 5635	that bro	delition to the	extiti	it may be r	
Written comments must be subn contact person listed on the notic comments should include the bo date of the public hearing, and the listed on the notice.  Case Number: C14-2017-0085	Contact: Sherri Sirwaitis, 512-974-305 Public Hearing: Sept 5, 2017, Zoning a Sept. 28. City Council	int)  R	Signature Signature	feel to	La a a	hat the	comment,	0
Written comments recontact person lister comments should in date of the public he listed on the notice.	Sherri Si learing: Se Se	(please pri	ss(es) affec	Tot Tot	homes.	note t	stin Zoning De	wants 088 78767-881
Written c contact p comment date of th listed on Case Nu	Contact: Public H	Your Name (please print)  12108 Conrad Rd	our adare.	Comments: $\frac{be}{a}$	SF-3	Please	Lity of Austin City of Austin Planning & Zoning Department	Snerri Sirwaitis P. O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767-8810

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Case Number: C14-2017-0085 Contact: Sherri Sirwaitis, 512-974-3057 Public Hearing: Sept 5, 2017, Zoning and Platting Commission Sept. 28. City Council
That less Ford  Your Name (please print) 121012 Confas Rol
Your address(es) affected by this application  8, 23.1  Signature  Date
Daytime Telephone: 512. 442. 1862  Comments: This is the property in  Questiven, LOEA is Document
gown the lot next door
If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to: City of Austin Planning & Zoning Department Sherri Sirwaitis P. O. Box 1088

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summit (buts neighborthood. The proposed change the particular property in question but more umportantly, it would open the door to other singe-tamily units will be normaniently affected If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to: will allow a duplex structure to be built on Comments: My Wife Glovia and I wish to volce Utm in favor comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled to be built by other property owners. The integrity of our neighborhood as Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the objection to changing the zoning in our date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your I object Public Hearing: Sept 5, 2017, Zoning and Platting Commission Daytime Telephone: 512, 35, 25, 6553 Rudolph & Chrie Munguia Contact: Sherri Sirwaitis, 512-974-3057 Your address(es) affected by this application Sept. 28. City Council Case Number: C14-2017-0085 Signature Planning & Zoning Department 17777 S905 Bur Inaton such structures -Your Name (please print) Austin, TX 78767-8810 listed on the notice. Sherri Sirwaitis City of Austin P. O. Box 1088

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# Comments from W.D. Clifford on C14-2017-0085 30AUG2017

I may not be able to attend any of the public hearings for this case, but I want to register my opposition.

## **OVERVIEW**

My position is that this rezoning would only benefit the applicant (Charlie Ford), not the neighborhood. In fact, I believe this rezoning would be detrimental to the neighborhood. Thus I am opposed to the rezoning. I moved here, live here, and plan to continue living here because this is a quiet, SINGLE FAMILY neighborhood. Allowing even one SF-3 lot (which permits a duplex use) would, in my view, violate this single family environment and open the door for more rezoning within Summit Oaks.

# **DETAILS – NO BLANK CHECK**

Mr. Ford, the applicant, met with the neighbors on Sunday, 27AUG2017. We asked him what he was planning to build on the subject property. He said he wanted to build two structures, one for each of his two sons. However, Mr. Ford offered no further details. And he was asked what restrictions of the current SF-2 zoning were interfering with his plans. Again, he had a very vague answer (because he has no plans for what he wants to construct). Mr. Ford admits he cannot define/describe what he wants to build, or why SF-2 is not sufficient.

To me, he is asking the neighborhood to support the re-zoning request and trust him to fill in the details. This is no different than giving someone a signed, blank check. I am strongly opposed to this.

# **DETAILS – SETTING THE WRONG PRECEDENT**

The fear of having other property owners in the neighborhood filing a re-zoning request for SF-3 if Mr. Ford's zoning request is granted is VERY real. There are several properties in the neighborhood that are being used as duplexes, thanks to a loophole in the City's regulations that allow the rental of a portion of a building (including kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, outside entrance/exit) as long as the two portions are connected by a doorway

In 2007, I was involved in an effort by the neighborhood association to investigate and stop (if possible) these "duplexes". My neighbor, Bill Boulton, and I spoke at the Citizen's Communication portion of a City Council meeting to register our surprise at the legal definition of SF-2 zoning that allowed a "duplex use" of a residential property. There was interest from the Council Members who were present, but to my knowledge, no change was made to the zoning definition. At our request, the City did inspect each of the suspect properties and proclaimed that they were in compliance with SF-2 zoning. This was a huge disappoint to the neighborhood. In my view, if it looks like a duplex, and acts like a duplex, then it IS a duplex.

Today, it is my belief that all the suspect properties are still operating as duplexes and some of the owners would jump upon the opportunity to rezone their property to SF-3. Among other things, this would allow them to remove the common doorway and replace it with a wall. I believe approving Mr. Ford's rezoning request will open the door to additional rezoning requests. Thus I am strongly opposed to this rezoning.

# **HISTORICAL NOTES**

- There is a narrow SF-3 zoned area south of the applicant's lot shown on the notice the City sent
  to some of us. This SF-3 area is not a separate lot. It is a buffer zone on the retail lot, created by
  the City Council, to protect the residential neighborhood from the commercial property. In my
  mind, this SF-3 parcel does NOT provide an argument in favor of the applicant's request.
- Our neighborhood (Summit Oaks) has about 36 lots/houses. There are 4 streets, all dead-end.
   There is only one entrance/exit to the neighborhood, Tweed Court. It is a very quiet, unique place to live.
- My wife and I have lived in Summit Oaks for more than 40 years. Many of our neighbors have been here for decades.
- The map sent by the City to some of the property owners in the neighborhood, shows a car
  wash and an auto rental business. This information is over 20 years old. There is no longer any
  car wash. The building previously occupied by the auto rental business is now occupied by a
  different business.

# **SUMMARY**

This zoning request from Mr. Ford may solve a problem for Mr. Ford, but it has the high probability of inflicting significant damage to our neighborhood. Please deny the rezoning.

Respectfully,

William Clifford

12106 Tweed Court Austin, Texas 78727

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512-258-3609

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